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Kansas—Slavery.

LETTER FROM B. F. STRINGFELLOW.
To the Hon. P. S. Brooks, Thos. L. Clingman, Wm. Smith, and John McQueen.

GENTLEMEN: It gives me pleasure to comply with your request, and state in writing the information I have been enabled to give you, touching the settlement of Kansas Territory, and its adaptability to slave labor, and to present the considerations which induce me to say, without hesitation, it will be a slave holding State.

For the sake of convenience, I will reply to your inquiries separately.

1. *Will Kansas be a Slaveholding State?*

I answer without hesitation, it will. Though a citizen of Missouri, yet residing on the border of Kansas, I have necessarily felt a deep interest in the decision of this question, and have watched anxiously the progress of the struggle which has been going on in that Territory. A residence of nearly seventeen years in Missouri had, I believed, enabled me to form a reliable opinion as to the class of population which would naturally and permanently occupy Kansas. I admit, however, I was somewhat alarmed when I saw our southern friends seemingly ready to surrender it, deterred by the declaration of those on whom they were accustomed to rely, that "it was not adapted to slave labor," while, at the same time, Abolitionists were organizing their Companies, with millions of capital, to colonize that Territory. Yet I never despaired! I still declared that, though sent but, they could not remain; they could not live in the prairies! I can now refer you to the result of the late election for Delegate, as evidence conclusive of the correctness of my opinion.

The question of slavery was not properly involved in this election, and Gen. Whitfield, accordingly, in announcing himself a candidate, presented, as the issue, the principles of the Douglas bill. But the real issue was not left to him; the friends of his opponents, before he was fairly announced, made the issue distinctly and directly on the question of Slavery—induced to do so, without doubt, under the false impression that a large number of those sent out by the Abolition societies were still in the Territory. That issue was at once accepted by the friends of Whitfield, and, by the action of the Abolitionists, became the only issue in the contest; it absorbed all others, and on it the election turned.

Whitfield received the pro-slavery vote. The anti-slavery was divided between Fleniken and Wakefield. The former was favored by the Governor, and, as a consequence, distinguished from the Abolitionist, was called by the voter term Free-Soiler. He received the vote of those who denied that they were Abolitionists, but claimed only to be opposed to slavery, with such of the Abolitionists as could be influenced by the Governor. Wakefield was the proper Abolition candidate, and received, with few exceptions, the votes of those sent out by the Emigrant Aid Societies. This last vote, you will see, was nearly all given in one district. That district included the town of Lawrence, to which those sent by the Abolition Societies were forwarded. Those societies show, by their reports, that they have transported to Kansas 3,000 during the past summer; and I incline to the belief that the number is not overestimated. Of that number, you will see, there were left on the day of the election but 248; of these, I am credibly informed, 150 left on the day following the election, having complied with their contract in going! Others have since left, and I can safely say that, of the whole batch, there will not by March be fifty left in the territory! They were not such men as could settle a prairie country.

I am aware that it is charged, by Abolitionists, that Missouri sent those hands (they had it four thousand) to Kansas "merely to vote," and thus elected Whitfield. I ought not, perhaps, to deny the charge, as Missouri has certainly an equal right with Massachusetts to send men to Kansas! Abolitionists have not the exclusive right to organize Emigrant Aid Societies! If that charge were true, I do not see that it can afford much consolation to Abolitionists to find that Missouri can, alone and unaided, so easily defeat their boasted schemes. On the contrary, it might well encourage our southern friends to learn that though they be asleep or afraid, Missouri is not only awake but able and determined to protect the rights of the South.

For answer to this charge, however, I need only refer you to the vote; you will see that Whitfield received a majority in every precinct but three, in two of which a very small vote was given, and in the other is situated the town of Lawrence. You will see, too, that there was but a handful of Abolitionists in the whole territory, their whole vote being only about 600. To say, then, that illegal votes from Missouri carried the election, is to assert that there were no people in the Territory! It is a

poor shift, to which the Abolitionists are driven, but the only one to cover their failure. Another and a sufficient answer to all such charges is, that the judges of the election were appointed by the Governor, who was an active friend of Fleniken; they received the votes and returned them without objection from any quarter in but one district, and in that the objection was withdrawn.

The truth is, a large number of Missourians who have "claims" in the Territory, and intend to reside there, were not there on the day of the election. But they will be there in the spring, and will have a right to vote; they will not, however, like Abolitionists, return so soon as they vote, but will remain, and continue to vote. Missourians have believed that, without the Douglas bill, and certainly under the great principle recognized by that bill, they had the right to move to Kansas, and there to exercise the privileges, which, as freemen, they had before been accustomed to exercise.

Abolitionists have proclaimed that their purpose is not only to exclude slaveholders from Kansas, but to use Kansas as a means for abolishing Slavery in Missouri; then, with these for their levers, to abolish it in Arkansas and Texas. Were they to succeed, it needs no prophet to foretell the speedy dissolution of the Union. Missourians have seen felt that in their efforts to defeat the designs of the Abolitionists, they were not only defending their own homes, but the Union itself. To protect their homes, they have made their homes in Kansas. If, then, it is intended, by the charge, to say that those who once lived in Missouri, carried the election in Kansas, there is some foundation for the charge. While the people of Missouri are not "lawless invaders," many have moved into Kansas mainly induced by the determination to adopt all lawful means to protect themselves from the invasion of Abolitionists. Others are ready and determined, if necessary, to abandon their homes and move, at whatever cost of comfort or money. We have a deeper interest at stake, and are not less self-sacrificing than the Abolitionists. In justice to the people of Missouri, I will say (from an experience, as a lawyer of seventeen years, during ten of which I was prosecuting attorney,) they are as orderly, as moral, as submissive to law as the people of any State in the Union. At the same time, composed as they are of the most enterprising, energetic, if not intellectual, of the old States, they are as determined of purpose and as likely to effect their purpose as any people in the world. When, then, I say to you, that this is not as it is to Abolitionists and even to our Southern friends at a distance a question of theory or conscience, but a matter of home, of bread, that they have determined to submit to any sacrifice, which they can as good citizens make, rather than suffer the Abolitionists to force upon the people of Kansas a system they do not approve; you will readily see that it is not in the power of Emigration Societies to effect their purpose. There is now in the Territory a majority of more than four to one in favor of making Kansas a slaveholding State; that majority will, if emigration be left to itself, be increased; if emigration is to be forced again, it will be found that Missouri is nearer to Kansas than Boston!

I believe I may assume that the speculators who so freely advanced their money for the purpose of colonizing Kansas with Abolitionists, under pretence of a desire to make it a "free territory," but really to amass fortunes by laying out towns with the hirelings sent out by them, have found their speculations so flat a failure that they will permit Kansas to be settled in the natural way.

If thus settled, it must become a slaveholding State. It is not adapted to the making of towns; it is not suited for little farms; it cannot be settled by those who have not the command of labor. To the farmer who has no "help," but is dependent on his own unaided labor, Kansas is, of all, the least desirable country; it cannot be settled by such. In the timber, the poor man can, with his axe, erect his cabin; make his rails on the line of his fence, with his own hands; he can plow his field, and with his one-horse plow break his ground, and put it in cultivation. But in Kansas there is no such land for cultivation. Every foot of timber is needed for fuel and fencing. The timber is confined to the banks of the streams, on the bottoms and the breaks of hills; hence timbered land is less fitted for cultivation, while, on account of its scarcity, it is far too valuable for that purpose. Farms must be made in the prairie. The farmer must have a team to haul his rails, and in most cases they must be hauled so far as to render fencing too costly for little fields. Large fields alone, by reducing the proportion of fencing, can render his cost reasonable. Dwellings must be framed, and built either of brick or of stone. But, perhaps, the greatest of all the difficulties in the way of the poor man, is the first cost of breaking prairie. To do this requires two hands and at least six yoke of oxen. If hired, it will cost at least three dollars per acre; but it cannot be hired in Kansas for years; there, every man will have his own land to break each settler must, hence, have his own team, his own plowmen. In no instance has prairie land been first settled by poor men. After a country is settled, and every facility afforded, it is just

possible for one here and there to make a farm in the prairie. In Missouri, such instances even yet are rare. In northern Illinois, with all its facilities, its rich prairies lay virtually a waste until railroads were made through them.

Such are some of the difficulties which have driven those sent out by the Emigrant Aid Societies back to the towns of the East, which have compelled so many of those who emigrated from the non-slaveholding States to return. Of these from the non-slaveholding States who remain, the substantial men of means and intelligence, a large proportion so soon as they are enabled to see Slavery as it really exists, are freed from their prejudices, and from sheer necessity become slaveholders for no other labor can be had. While, then, prairie is so unattended to the poor man, on the other hand, to the man who can command labor, and who has one or more slaves, it presents many and great inducements.

2. *Is slave labor profitable in Kansas?*

As yet no opportunity to obtain its value has been given; I can hence only refer you to its value in Missouri, and say that, lying in the same latitude, immediately west and alongside of Missouri, the soil and climate of Kansas cannot differ materially from those of Missouri. I am inclined to believe that Kansas will prove even healthier than Missouri, there being less low marshy land in Kansas. There can thus be no reason why slave labor should not be as profitable in Kansas as in Missouri.

Anticipating that such inquiries might be made during my visit to Virginia, before leaving home I procured from intelligent farmers in Platte, a county bordering on Kansas, a statement showing the amount of land which one hand can cultivate, with the yield per acre, and the market price of the products at home. I have no hesitation in attesting its correctness.

Amount of land to hand and yield per acre.
Hemp—7 to 8 acres " " 800 to 1200 lbs.
Corn—10 to 15 acres " " 10 to 20 bbls.
Wheat—10 to 15 " " 20 to 45 bush.
Oats—10 to 15 " " 30 to 60 bush.

Value of products at home:

Hemp—2 1/2 tons, at \$50 per ton " \$250
Corn—100 bbls, at \$1 per bl " 100
Wheat—5 acres—100 bush at 80cts per b 80
Oats—5 acres—150 bush at 30cts per b 45

Total least yield, at lowest price \$425

Hemp—4 1/2 tons at \$130 per ton " \$585

Corn—300 bbls at \$2 per bl " 600

Wheat—5 acres—225 bush at \$1 per b 225

Oats—5 acres—250 bush at 40cts per b 100

Greatest yield, at highest price \$1,610

This will doubtless seem an extravagant estimate; yet the quotations of the market will show that the maximum prices are less than the present market prices. Hemp has sold during the past season for \$150 per ton. Wheat is worth \$1.25 per bushel, and corn \$3 per barrel. The yield too, is often greater than the highest. But it is not less true that the greatest yield and highest price are not often together. My object is rather to show the least yield and the lowest price. Negroes—field hands—have hired for some years in Western Missouri at prices which could not be paid if their labour was less valuable than as a boy slave. Men at from \$180 to \$250; women from \$80 to \$150 per annum, the hired paying all expenses, and losing all time of sickness; the owner at no charge. A woman with two children will bring from \$60 to \$90; and girls from ten to thirteen years of age, from \$40 to \$60 per annum. I now pay for one, about ten years of age \$6 per month by the year. I need hardly say that the negroes must be healthy and profitable to enable farmers to pay such prices.

3. *Is it safe to take Slaves to Kansas now?*
Of this there can be no doubt. They are less likely to escape than from Missouri; are farther from the underground railroads and hiding places of the Abolitionists; while the people of the territory are more on the alert, and watch more closely those who would steal them.

From the law there can be no danger. Slaves are now, and have been in the territory for years, so that slavery in fact is already established. I need not say to you that no lawyer, unless he is an Abolitionist, will pretend that any positive law is necessary to make slavery legal. But to vindicate the truth of history, I ought to say that the "veriest school-boy" must know, as a matter of history, that although slavery existed in all the old States, in not one was a law ever enacted to establish it. Laws have been passed recognizing its existence after it had an existence; never to establish it before it existed. It has been abolished, not by the repeal of laws establishing or permitting it, but by laws positively and expressly prohibiting it. Without such prohibitory laws, it would now exist in every State in the Union. Until such laws are enacted by some competent legislative power, Slavery is legal in Kansas. Such laws will never be enacted! Whatever might have been the result, if Abolitionists had not attempted to force the people of the Territory, their movements have "fixed the fact." They cannot harm us now.

I have said that Kansas was not suited to the poor man; I only intend to refer to those who design to till the ground. But to the poor mechanic, or other great inducements. To all categories, especially, and to stone and brick masons it will give constant employment at high wages. The

rudest beginner receives \$1.50 per day—good workmen, as journeymen, receive, in regular employments, from \$2 to \$3 per day. Their expenses are light, the cost of living being low.

To all mechanics who are not Abolitionists, I will guarantee ample compensation.

Those who have more slaves than can be profitably employed in opening a farm, can, in the meantime, hire out the remainder, including the women and those too young to render much service in the fencing and breaking the ground, at the prices I have stated, in Kansas or Missouri. Thus, by the time they will need the money to enter the land, they can realize enough to enter all they may need.

The great facilities now afforded by railroads and steamboats render a removal to Kansas, even from the Atlantic States, a light matter. Railroads from Virginia, Carolina, and Georgia, are now extended to the Ohio and Mississippi, on which steamboats are almost hourly passing to St. Louis; thence, daily packets leave for the Upper Missouri river, during all but two or three winter months, reaching Kansas in from three to four days. Emigrants from the Atlantic States, can thus reach Kansas in from six to ten days, at, for, but little expense, and without danger or trouble from the Abolitionists. Below Cincinnati there is no danger—even there a little caution will secure slaves against escape. The expenses from the Atlantic States will be from \$50 to \$80, to those who take cabin passage. Deck passage on the boats, in which the emigrant provides his own fare, will not cost more than half the above prices.

B. F. STRINGFELLOW.

Kansas—Its Soil.

Gen. J. W. WHITFIELD, the Delegate to Congress from Kansas Territory, has addressed a letter to W. T. HELMS, Esq., of Knoxville, Tenn., dated Washington City, January 2d, of which the following are extracts:

"I think I do not exaggerate when I say that the best land in Tennessee is of inferior fertility to that of Kansas. Some idea of its productiveness may be formed from the fact that the ordinary yield of corn to the acre is from fifty to seventy-five bushels; from twenty to forty bushels; hemp, from eight hundred to twelve hundred lbs. Potatoes, turnips, and other esculent roots are produced with very little cultivation; plums and some other fruits grow spontaneously in various parts of the country.

From this general statement a correct estimate may be formed of the superior quality of the soil in the tillable portion of the Territory. Of course there are degrees of fertility in the soil of Kansas as elsewhere; but the general characteristic of the soil is that it is entirely sterile or of exuberant fertility.

The climate of Kansas is colder than that of Tennessee in proportion to its more northern geographical position. But while the emigrant should not expect in the Territory the mildness of a southern winter, he will find himself equally removed from the extreme rigor of the northern. In healthfulness, particularly in exemption from all pulmonary diseases, there is no climate, in my opinion, surpassing that of Kansas. If there is any drawback on the future growth of our Territory, (and candor compels me to state every thing, favorable or unfavorable,) it is the scarcity of timber. This scarcity is obviated, so far as fuel is concerned, by the great abundance of excellent coal found in all parts of the territory. But to build comfortable houses and put farms under substantial fences, will require some means. Persons in indigent circumstances, I fear, will have some difficulty in many parts of the territory in procuring the material for building and fencing. But one whose pecuniary circumstances will admit of his procuring these necessities, cannot, in my opinion, make a better investment of his capital than to open a farm in Kansas, and engage in stock growing, or cultivating the agricultural products which grow so luxuriantly in its virgin soil.

I mention this last peculiarity of Kansas—the scarcity of timber—with a view of presenting every difficulty the emigrant will encounter, so that on his arrival he may not be disappointed. Of course there is timber, particularly along the water-courses; but that abundance which is found in Tennessee, and it will compare favorably as to timber with most prairie country. Persons, rich or poor, who can procure a timber 'claim,' most prosper, or the fault will be their own.

One word, in conclusion, in relation to the political aspect of things in the Territory. The passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill (as it is called) of Mr. Douglas, was an act of simple justice to the people, who otherwise would have been placed under unfair and un-American restrictions. It was a re-annunciation of a great principle in the charter of our liberties. Upon the principle of this bill I went through the late contest, and triumphed, having been supported by persons from slaveholding and non-slaveholding States, who had faith in their rights and their capacity for self-government. Upon the principles of the Douglas bill the people of Kansas have taken their stand, and slaveholders have in their wisdom, may give to their institutions when they form a State government, to give it a free and a fair trial, and to give according to the views they happen to entertain, to none of it. It is a just ground of complaint.

Letter from Kansas.

[Correspondence of the Missouri Statesman.]
[Cot. Switzman: After rambling over a large portion of Kansas Territory, I take up my pen to inform you that I have settled down in the interior of the Delaware country, believing it to be the best portion of Kansas Territory.]

Since the 25th of May last, I have traveled over a large portion of the country, and have been in the Shawnee and Kickapoo tribes of Indians as well as that ceded by the Delaware and notwithstanding there has been much doubt expressed, in certain quarters, about the squatters being permitted to settle on the Delaware lands, I preferred taking my chance here to any other portion of the Territory I have seen.

We have here besides, an abundance of timber and water, with indications of interminable mines of coal, iron, and copper, a soil unsurpassed, and a climate equal to any in the world for salubrity. Winter has been remarkably mild thus far—a glorious thing for the squatters; though it costs us as much to live here, as it did the squatters in California in 1849-'50 and '51. Corn is worth here \$1 per bushel; meat \$1.25 per bushel; potatoes \$2.75 per bushel; flour \$4.75 per 100 lbs; beef 30cts per lb; bulk pork 7cts per lb; butter 30cts per lb; eggs 40cts per dozen—and everything else in proportion.

So you see we squatters have "a hard road to travel." We expect, however, to stay where we are—the threats of Mr. Manypenny, and the recommendations of the Secretary of the Interior to the contrary notwithstanding. We think apart from every thing else, that the act of July 22nd (establishing) the pre-emption law of '41 over "all of Kansas Territory to which the Indian title had been or might hereafter be extinguished" is a full guarantee for us to stay here. Be that as it may, however, the "claims" are nearly all taken up, and about two-thirds of them occupied by families on the Delaware lands.

It is believed here by most of the squatters, that Gov. Reeder is putting off the election of members for the Territorial legislature until such time as his Free-soil Abolition friends can get here, or till after the opening of navigation in the spring, so that the "Emigrant Aid Society," from the East, may send out their menials to do their dirty work in the first election for members of the Legislature; but permit me to say to your friends of Missouri and the South, who design making Kansas their future home, that they need have no fears, for we are just as certain to make Kansas a slave State, as three and two make five. I think too, (if Gov. Reeder can spare time enough from his private land speculations to issue the proclamation) that the Legislature may be called before the breaking up of the winter; of that however we have no assurance.

We have a number of towns (laid off) in the territory. The city (in embryo) of Leavenworth is quite a flourishing place, containing two Dry Goods Stores, three provision and grocery stores, one drug store, one tin shop and stove store, two steam-circular saw-mills, one large well-kept hotel, a number of private boarding houses, and lawyers and doctors without number—the latter however is a useless appendage, as no one ever thinks about getting sick in this country.

We have besides Leavenworth, on the river, Kickapoo, Atchison, and Doniphan all well located. We also have as interesting towns, (north of the Kaw river,) Pawnee, Oswego, Whitfield and Alexandria; all flourishing inland villages; and South of the Kansas river there are Yankee towns without number.

I am spinning this communication out longer, however, than I intended when I commenced writing. I will write to you again soon, and keep you "posted" in regard to passing events here.

Yours truly,
AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

INTERESTING TO KANSAS EMIGRANTS.

The Cambridge Md. Chronicle contains an extract to a letter from Chief Justice Leconte, of Kansas Territory, from which we quote:

"I do not feel justified in advising, at present persons to come here unless they have capital to invest, or are prepared by their habits to put their hands to work. These classes of persons are likely to do well. I have no doubt that many men will realize large fortunes by investment of their means, even in small amounts. I am fully as well satisfied, for those who can work, this Territory will furnish, upon the opening of spring, a fine field. Carpenters, brick-layers, plasterers, &c., will command high wages and find increasing employment. The soil is of the greatest fertility; and the face of the country is not to be surpassed. Every thing exists here necessary to society, and the signs indicate that an immense flood of emigrants will pour out here as soon as the Missouri opens for the winter. Whether living will be at any reasonable rate for some time, is to be decided by the future. Thus far all my calculations, as well as yours and others have failed, and I have found it the most expensive country in which my lot has ever been cast."

The Farmers are said lately, to have stolen a considerable amount of corn and a number of hogs, from the trading post on the Blue, near Marysville Kansas.

Correspondence of the New York Herald.

Washington, Feb. 9, 1855.

Indians in Kansas—Resolutions of the House—False Charges against Military Officers—Interesting Developments in Prospects.

Your regular correspondent "E." dated his Monday's letter a report of the contents of certain voluminous documents submitted by the Secretary of the Interior to the House of Representatives, in compliance with a resolution which called on him for information respecting the alleged interference of civil and military officers in Kansas Territory with the rights of the Indians.

As the documents were not printed when your correspondent wrote, he appears to have been favored with official aid in obtaining access to them. The Commissioner, in suggesting the call from the House of Representatives upon the office to which he belonged, intended to crush the military officers by *ex parte* statements of his own, but the Secretary of the Interior spoiled the plan by introducing some papers which escaped your correspondent's attention, and which, like ink rollers used in the celebrated fight of the San Diego editors, "gave the affair quite a different complexion."

The Secretary of War, on learning from the Secretary of the Interior that the Commissioner wished three respectable old officers "cashiered and dismissed the service," offended the Commissioner gravely, it seems, not only by failing to comply promptly, but by giving the officers the usual information of the accusations against them, and opportunity for reply. The consequence of this disrespect to the Commissioner was the direct contradiction of all his charges by the indignant officers, who characterized them as unqualified calumnies, and intimated that the "poor Delawares," for whom so much sympathy was professed, were speculators, whose interests, in view of contemplated donations of these ceded lands to telegraph and railroad companies, were opposed to the settlers, whom the officers considered fairly entitled to the customary privilege of pre-emption.

As I cannot think your correspondent "E." willing to be used as the instrument of persecution, I hope he will take another look at the documents which supplied him with a topic on Monday, and correct the injustice he has done to the officers he then assailed so unwarrantably.

These officers are precluded, by absence at a distant station, or by their relations to the government, from entering into a newspaper controversy about official matters, but are ready to meet any responsibility for the issue they have made with the commissioner respecting the truth of his statements; and he knows it.

The law and army regulations point out distinctly very direct and effective modes of reaching officers, for any moral or official delinquencies, and as accuser actuated by a sincere conviction, and not by malice or interest, would have used these, and not have sought, by the advantage of official station or political influence, to destroy men who, in the region where his acts and theirs are better understood than here, are the more honored because they differ from him.

SHARP.

KANSAS PIONEER.—The Kansas Pioneer offers to swap Gov. Reeder for Gov. Cuming; we would inform him that we have no desire for the services of Gov. Reeder, being provided with a Governor who we have strong hopes will give general satisfaction; but if he wants Cuming, he may have him in exchange for the meanest dog in Kansas and may shoot the dog as soon as he pleases and upon advising us of the fact we will send him a postage stamp to pay for amputation expended. [Nebraska City News.]

Hon. Mark W. Izard, the new Governor of Nebraska, has twice been President of the Arkansas Senate, and once Speaker of the House of Representatives of that State, where he has resided for twenty-four years. He is a native of Kentucky, and is a fine specimen of a pioneer, being over six feet in height.

MORMONISM.—We learn from an exchange that Brigham Young is building two large and beautiful houses in addition to the one he now occupies in Salt Lake City, to accommodate his increasing family. He now rejoices in between fifty and sixty wives. Elder Kimball, one of the Mormon Apostles, has between sixty and seventy consorts.

Two brothers met the other day at Point Coupee, La., who had not seen each other for fifty years. One is nearly 90 years old, and the other 75.

A bill has been introduced in the Senate of Indiana to break up the known-holding lodges in that State. It declares it a conspiracy for persons to band themselves under solemn oaths for the purpose of depriving any citizen of the State of political rights under the constitution.

TAR NEWSPAPERS.—How long some in the freemasonry where there is no newspaper! Ask the man who has a family paper to read, with the latest news, the most interesting, the useful lessons, and who is not deprived of it for a few weeks and then ask him to put an "accuracy" upon it. It will have risen above all prices.